Farmers Deliver Record Corn Crop

ST. LOUIS, MO.

U.S. corn farmers brought in a record amount of corn in 2009, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported, despite a harvest season that left thousands of acres of corn around the country still unharvested. USDA estimated a crop of 13.2 billion bushels, with a record yield of 165.2 bushels per acre.

"While we are extremely proud of the achievements of growers in terms of production and yield improvements, we are not surprised," NCGA President Darrin Ihnen, a farmer in Hurley, S.D., said. "Even in difficult conditions, our growers combine the most modern technology available with a strong and determined work ethic to produce a crop that meets all needs for food, feed, fuel and fiber. What remains to be seen is the full impact of the millions of bushels that farmers could not yet harvest."

U.S. corn growers produced this record crop utilizing fewer acres. In 2009, USDA estimates 86.6 million acres were used for corn production, compared with the 93.5 million acres used to produce the previous record crop in 2007.

In its World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, the USDA Tuesday estimated a total corn supply of 14.8 billion bushels, with 5.6 billion bushels being used for feed, 4.2 billion for ethanol and coproducts, and 1.3 billion for other domestic uses. The U.S. will export 2.1 billion bushels of corn, with a carry-out of 1.8 billion bushels in free stocks at the end of the marketing year. Average farm price is estimated at $3.70 per bushel, the second year of a drop in average corn prices.

Also, USDA reports that corn stocks were up 9 percent over December 2008. Corn stored in all positions on Dec. 1, 2009 totaled 10.9 billion bushels. Of the total stocks, 7.45 billion bushels are stored on farms, up 15 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 3.49 billion bushels, are down 3 percent from 2008. Δ